

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A numerical aperture (NA) equalizing apparatus including a transmission element with an input surface, in which the input surface has a first input dimension and a second input dimension, with the second input dimension being substantially orthogonal to the first input dimension, and the first input dimension is substantially unequal to the second input dimension. Such an NA equalizing system may further include a reflector having a first and a second focal points, with a source of electromagnetic radiation located proximate to the first focal point to produce rays of radiation that are reflected by the reflector and converge substantially at the second focal point. A transmission element to be illuminated with at least a portion of the electromagnetic radiation emitted by the source is placed so that an input surface is located proximate to the second focal point to collect the electromagnetic radiation. The input surface has a first input dimension and a second input dimension, with the second input dimension being substantially orthogonal to the first input dimension, and the first input dimension is substantially unequal to the second input dimension.